

God With Us: Good News for Special Needs Parenting

Stephanie O. Hubach, Near His Heart Banquet, February 2021

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Immanuel: God. With. Us.

- What does "God With Us" actually mean?
- How does it apply to our lives in general?
- How does it apply to special needs parenting in particular?

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"Where does my help come from?"

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2

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Who? GOD with us.

- GOD, the Creator King
- GOD, the Transcendent One
- GOD, the Holy One

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How? God WITH us.

- WITH us by choice
- WITH us in intentionality

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Why? God With US.

- God has set his everlasting love upon us
- We need his help



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“Where Does My Help Come From?”

- Immanuel: God With Us
- Who? GOD: Creator King, Transcendent One, Perfectly Glorious
- How? WITH: Intentionally and Sacrificially Identifying With Us
- Why? US: He Sets His Love Upon Us and We Need His Help

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So What? Practical Applications

- Lift up your eyes and see the big broad view of Scripture.
- Lift up your eyes and sees the gifts of grace God has given us in his abiding presence.
 - Eight Gifts of Grace
 - Applications to Special Needs Parenting

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#1: The Gift of Unearned Value

- God gives us his image that we might reflect God's character into the world.
- Applications to Special Needs Parenting:
We can know our child's value in the face of cultural pressures to the contrary because we know all people have “unearned value” as God's image bearers.

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#2: The Gift of God's Unwavering Faithfulness

- God is a promise keeper who is faithful to us even when we are not faithful to him.
- Applications to Special Needs Parenting:
We can depend on the “unwavering faithfulness” of God in the face of every need, even “special” ones.
Remember: the steadfast love of the Lord isn't “skimpy!”

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#3: The Gift of an Undeserved Substitute

- We cannot begin to live a life free of sin and error. But Jesus has done this for us, so we can breathe deeply.
- Applications to Special Needs Parenting:
We have an “undeserved substitute” in Jesus, so we can find grace to deal with our own failures and limitations.

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#4: The Gift of Understanding Our Sufferings

- Jesus experientially knows and understands suffering in every way in which we experience it.
- **Applications to Special Needs Parenting:**
We have a Savior who “understands our sufferings” of oppression and injustice, grief and loss, being misunderstood, and facing temptation—as all of which relate in unique ways to parenting children with special needs.

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#5: The Gift of the Undoing of Our Old Nature

- The Spirit accomplishes the transforming work of God in us.
- **Applications to Special Needs Parenting:**
We have the indwelling of the Spirit, who directs the “undoing of our old nature” and allows us to be transformed in how we engage unexpected circumstances in our lives. He empowers us to put to death our tendencies to shame, autonomy, and power and control, which can poison our relationships with our child with special needs, our family and our neighbors.

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#6: The Gift of Union with Christ

- We are in Christ, and vitally connected in his body to all other believers.
- **Applications to Special Needs Parenting:**
We experience “union with Christ” and, therefore, his people so we can rest in our adoption, see our child’s indispensable role in the body of Christ, and grow in grace with others in the church through the journey.

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#7: The Gift of an Unfailing Advocate

- Christ is our unfailing advocate before the throne of grace.
- **Applications to Special Needs Parenting:**
We have an “unfailing advocate” in Christ in the face of relentless. In Jesus’ advocacy, we learn how to advocate for our child like he advocates for us.

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#8: The Gift of Unending Dwelling with God

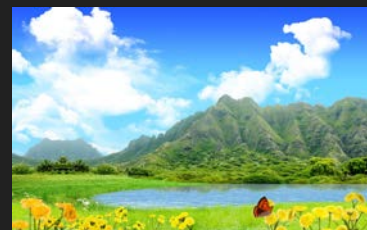
- One day, we will dwell with God face to face.
- **Applications to Special Needs Parenting:**
Finally, we will one day enjoy “unending dwelling” with God, face to face, in the new heavens and the new earth when he makes all things new. We can set our true hope on this reality where there will one day be no more tears.

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Psalms 121:1-2



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